

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1882

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 061

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UK, EI

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND VIOLENCE: QUIET EASTER --
CONTINUAL POLICE SUCCESSES

REF: (A) BELFAST 58, (B) BELFAST 41

1. DESPITE SECURITY FORCES'S CONCERN (REF A) AND THREATS OF NEW VIOLENCE FROM PROVISIONAL IRA HEADQUARTERS IN DUBLIN, THE EASTER WEEKEND PASSED IN NI WITHOUT MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE PROVISIONAL AND OFFICIAL IRA HELD THEIR TRADITIONAL, SEPARATE PARADES AND CEMETERY CEREMONIES WITH ORATORICAL FIREWORKS BUT LITTLE TROUBLE. ONLY A FEW POLICE WERE DAMAGED SLIGHTLY IN ROWDYISM THAT ACCOMPANIED PARADES, BUT THE SECURITY FORCES MADE NO ATTEMPT TO STOP THE FLYING OF THE IRISH TRICOLOR OR SALUTES BEING FIRED OVER REPUBLICAN GRAVES. THERE WAS SOME UNIONIST CRITICISM THAT PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN/EX-PIRA LEADER DAVID O' CONNELL WAS ALLOWED TO SLIP INTO LONDONDERRY AND GIVE A FIERY SPEECH, AND AFTER THE SHOW THE POLICE THERE ARRESTED SEVEN MEN FROM COUNTY DONEGAL, WHO WERE CHARGED WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE IRA.

2. THE ONLY IMPORTANT TERRORIST ATTACK OCCURRED IN
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PORTADOWN, SOME 25 MILES WEST OF BELFAST: YOUNG MEN TOSSED A HAND GRENADE INTO A PROTESTANT BAR. FOURTEEN MEN WERE HURT, ONE OR TWO SERIOUSLY. PRESUMABLY THIS ATTACK WAS IN RETALIATION FOR THE EARLY MARCH KILLING BY LOYALISTS OF TWO CATHOLICS IN THE CITY.

3. POLICE SUCCESSES IN TRACKING DOWN SUSPECTS CONTINUED:

THREE MEN WERE CHARGED THIS WEEK FOR THE MARCH 25 GRENADE THROWING. TWO OF THEM ALSO WERE CHARGED WITH THE EARLIER ATTEMPTED MURDER OF PORTADOWN PROTESTANT (PARA THREE REF A). ONE OF THE TWO ALLEGED THAT THE POLICE HAD MISTREATED HIM. IN ADDITION, A MAN WAS CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF A SOLDIER MARCH 1 IN BELFAST, USING AN M-60 MACHINEGUN (PARA TWO REF B).

4. COMMENT: SECURITY FORCES DO NOT INTERFERE IN THE EASTER RISING ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES. TRYING TO STOP ILLEGAL ACTS OF RITUAL SIGNIFICANCE WOULD BE REGARDED AS SERIOUSLY PROVOCATIVE BY MANY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT ACCEPT IRA DISCIPLINE.

STOUT

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NNN

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